

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The following paragraphs [00367] and [0419] will replace all prior versions of paragraphs [00369] and [0419] with regard to the published application:

[0367] Nuclear factor kappa B (NF- κ B) is a dimeric protein complex occurring in many tissue cells and in particular in blood cells. NF- κ B takes on a particular role in the control of the expression of genes which have an NF- κ B binding sequence (5'-GGGPuNNPyPyCC-3') (SEQ ID NO. 3) in their promoter sequence. To this extent, NF- κ B is a transcription factor. The physiological activity of NF- κ B in the control of gene expression, however, is subject to a regulation principle, in which NF- κ B is released from a complex with proteins of the I κ B class in order to be translocated as a transcription factor to the cell nucleus resulting in gene activation. The regulation principle for the release of active NF- κ B from a complex with the protein I κ B is still not known in detail.

[0419] The NF- κ B decoy that can be used in the present invention may be any compound that specifically antagonizes the NF- κ B binding site of the chromosomes and includes but is not limited to nucleic acids and their analogs. As preferred examples of the NF- κ B decoy, the present invention may utilize NF- κ B decoy comprising one or more copies of oligonucleotides CCTTGAAGGGATTTCCTCC (SEQ ID NO. 4) and GGAAGTTCCTAAAGGGAGG (SEQ ID NO. 5), preferably, the NF- κ B decoy are described as oligonucleotides containing the nucleotide sequence of GGGATTTCCTCC (SEQ ID NO. 6). Preferably, the NF- κ B decoy oligonucleotide is a double-stranded 22 bp oligonucleotide (5'-AGTTGAGGGGACTTTCCTCCAGGC-3') (SEQ ID NO. 7) (Promega).